

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 19th March 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong	600	4th March 1881.
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....	12th ditto.
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	7th ditto.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	18th ditto.
8	"Bhārat Bandhu"	Ditto	.....	8th ditto.
9	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	8th ditto.
10	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
11	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwān	296	8th ditto.
12	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	13th ditto.
13	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	11th ditto.
14	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	9th ditto.
15	"Medinī"	Midnapore	.....	12th ditto.
16	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	
17	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....
18	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	7th ditto.
19	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	.....	6th and 13th March 1881.
20	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	
21	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakiniā, Rungpore	250	
22	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	
23	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	7th March 1881.
24	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	14th ditto.
25	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	12th ditto.
26	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	
27	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	Commillah	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
28	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	700	9th to 18th March 1881.
29	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	12th to 19th ditto.
30	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	14th to 17th ditto.
31	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	16th to 19th ditto.
32	"Prabhātī"	Ditto	.....	17th and 18th ditto.
33	"Samāchār Sudhābarsan"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
34	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	10th March 1881.
36	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	10th ditto.
37	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	
38	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto	.....	12th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
39	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	11th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Tijarat-ul-Akhbār"	Ditto	.....
ASSAMESE.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
41	"Assam Vilāsini"	Sibsagar	.....

POLITICAL.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
March 7th, 1881.

WE extract the following observations from an article in the *Navavi-bhakar*, of the 7th March:—As observed by Mr. Hyndman, even the Afghan War, which has inflicted on India such an enormous loss of blood and treasure, has not been without its use. A portion of the war charges having been thrown upon England, the attention of the British nation has been aroused to the poverty of this country. The fact augurs well for the future. That nothing has been hitherto done to ameliorate the condition of the people has been due to the persistent efforts of Indian officials, both in England and in this country, to conceal the true state of affairs. A disclosure of the facts was rendered impossible by the fear of incurring the displeasure of the authorities, and thus ruining one's own prospects. In this matter of enlightening the British nation on the condition of India, even the Members of the Indian Council have been found wanting. Referring to the statement made by Mr. Hyndman as to the reasons which may have probably led Government to decide upon abandoning Candahar, the Editor remarks: It is perfectly true that the retention of Candahar would not be advisable on either strategic or financial grounds; but there may be some doubt as to the accuracy of the remark that the native troops showed an extreme unwillingness to serve in Afghanistan, and that therefore it would be unwise to entrust to them the task of defending Candahar. Mr. Hyndman, however, has made the assertion so confidently that we do not venture to question it. This much we can say that Government need have no apprehension from the people of India; who, however greatly they might be oppressed, insulted, or deprived of their rights and privileges, would never rebel against its authority. Mr. Hyndman is right in laying stress on the fact that there is deep discontent among the people, that they are sunk in poverty and groan under the burden of taxation, while it is a fact which is too patent to be ignored that they have lost all confidence in their rulers. It behove Lord Ripon, Major Baring, and other conscientious men, who are now guiding the affairs of the State, to disregard evil counsel and do their duty in a manly spirit.

SAHACHAR,
March 7th, 1881.

2. The *Sahachar*, of the 7th March, comments in a sarcastic spirit on Lord Lytton's speech in the House of Lords on the subject of Candahar. The Editor ridicules the idea that annexation of Candahar will enhance the prestige of the British nation, and remarks that the policy of evacuation favoured by the present Ministry, if it is successfully carried out, will for ever destroy the reputation of the late Government, and the insensate dread of Russia cherished by many, both in England and India. Lord Lytton's speech is regarded as a failure. It did not produce much impression on his illustrious audience. This result was anticipated by almost every body.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
March 7th, 1881.

3. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 7th March, thus states the conclusions at which it has arrived after a perusal of the Russian correspondence discovered at Cabul:—It might appear that Shere Ali voluntarily sought an alliance with Russia. But that is not the fact. The truth is he was persecuted by Lord Lytton, who threatened to ruin him by bringing about a coalition between England and Russia. The Amir was further told that the treaty which existed between him and the British Government would no longer be binding upon the latter. Placed in this difficulty, Shere Ali was compelled to seek the protection of Russia. The dethroned Amir died in exile. He was a friend of the British Government, which, however, spurned

Secret Russian correspondence.

him. The thought of the unfortunate Amir's condition is enough to excite pity even in the hardest heart.

4. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 14th March, remarks, that, if owing to the adverse vote of the Lords, Government is obliged to give up its policy of evacuating

Candahar.

Candahar, it will lose the confidence of the people of India. It is strange that, while a debate has taken place in Parliament regarding the question of retaining Candahar, there was no attempt made to ascertain the views of the Members of Parliament as to the justice of a war against Afghanistan, before it was actually declared. Towards the conclusion of the article, the Editor remarks that there would not be any matter for wonder if Candahar were really annexed; it is the retirement therefrom that would cause wonder. The whole course of British dominion in India clearly shows that the British lion never disgorges what it has once swallowed.

SOM PRAKASH,
March 14th, 1881.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

5. The *Navavibhákar*, of the 7th March, entirely concurs in the views expressed by the British Indian Association in their recent letter to the Government of India on the state of the finances. In the article

The next budget. What Government should do.

under notice, the Editor reproduces the observations made by that body on the decentralization system, and it is urged that the local Government should be given larger powers as regards expenditure. Under the existing arrangements, the Government of Bengal, although having a large revenue at its credit, cannot spend more than a prescribed amount. This has prevented its undertaking works of internal improvement, which are sorely needed by the people. The Supreme Government again occasionally appropriates the accumulated savings of local Governments, thus putting them to the necessity of imposing new taxes. This state of things should not be suffered to continue, and it is desirable that the new budget should contain some provision for preventing an undue interference on the part of the Imperial Government with the finances of Bengal.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
March 7th, 1881.

6. The same paper is of opinion that the Indian Council might be safely abolished. The maintenance of the Council involves considerable expenditure; but the work

The Indian Council.

done by it is not commensurate with the outlay. The members, as Mr. Hyndman, has remarked, instead of rectifying the errors of the Indian Government and the Secretary of State, as a rule, seek to conceal them, and by their action appear to be supremely indifferent to the interests of the people of India. There have been occasions, however, when certain members have taken up an independent attitude, and protested against the action of the Secretary of State. But very little good resulted from their remonstrances, which were unheeded. Thus this costly Council is seen to be useless for all purposes of securing a good Government of India. The members seldom move in any matter, even when they do move the Secretary of State disregards their advice. What then is the good of keeping up the institution? The evils apprehended from its contemplated abolition would never come to pass. There is nothing at present, with the Council in existence, to prevent the Secretary of State from growing arbitrary. So he could not be more arbitrary than what he is, even if it ceased to exist. Nor would the conduct of public business be impeded by the abolition of the Council, because business is now conducted without it. Another argument in favor of dispensing with its services is to be found in the fact that the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to whom is entrusted the management of affairs as important as those connected with the Government

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

of India, is not assisted by a Council. But, then, it may be urged that the people of the Colonies possess representative Government. The true solution of the question will not be arrived at until the privilege of representative Government is conferred upon the people of India.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
March 7th, 1881.

7. The same paper urges on Government the necessity of repealing the license-tax, and re-imposing the cotton duties. The objections to the continuance of the license-tax are reproduced from the memorials recently made to the Viceroy on this subject, and are set forth at length.

SAHACHAR,
March 7th, 1881.

8. The *Sahachar*, of the 7th March, contains an article headed "There is injustice even in the justice of Sir Ashley Eden." According to the writer the present Lieutenant-Governor is given to extreme favoritism. The punishment he awarded to Mr. Campbell, the Acting Judge of Burrisal, was indeed severe; but considering the offence that called it forth His Honor's decision was generally approved of. And yet if the matter were impartially considered, it would be seen that Mr. Campbell, who in insulting the Brahman constable, had acted in his capacity of a private individual, should have been prosecuted in a court of law, and not departmentally punished by the Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Mosley, on the other hand, who in his treatment of Baboo Atul Chandra Chatterjee, had acted as Magistrate, and thus rendered himself liable to be dealt with departmentally, was not even censured by Sir Ashley Eden. Even the letter he was directed to write to the Baboo, he got written by another, and yet Sir Ashley is silent. What wonder therefore that the people say that Mr. Mosley is his favorite, while Mr. Campbell is not. It is exceedingly to be regretted, remarks the Editor, that Sir Ashley Eden is not able to make himself popular in Bengal.

SAHACHAR.

9. The same paper eloquently pleads the importance of establishing savings banks in connection with the post offices in this country, and remarks that if the efforts of the present Director-General of Post Offices in this direction be successful, a great boon will be conferred upon the people.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
March 7th, 1881.

10. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 7th March, contains a long article on the decision of the Privy Council in what is now called the Hindu Unchastity Case. The judgment, it is remarked, is subversive of the notions of the Hindu society on the rights and duties of a Hindu widow, and is one which should be protested against by all who take an interest in preserving the purity of their social organization.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

11. The same paper publishes four advertisements, which are said to have been sent for insertion therein. The first is in this form:—Wanted 12 Deputy Magistrates on salaries rising from Rs. 200. Applicants for the posts should not be over 21 years of age, and must possess a knowledge of English, Bengali, and Persian. They must further be prepared to give an undertaking that if placed in charge of work connected with the license-tax, the excise, or stamps, they would be able to show an increase of revenue to the extent of 25 per cent. of the old collections. But the work, which would be particularly required of them, is that they should suffer in their own person any punishment which might be awarded to any of their official superiors. If any of the latter were required to make an apology, the former should have to make it on his behalf. Not a few European officers have wives who possess very violent dispositions and occasionally treat their husbands with rudeness, even going the length of assaulting them with brooms. Now, if any officer is placed in this predicament, these Deputy Magistrates should advance to

their rescue. Selected candidates will have to work as probationers in Berhampore for a period of two years under the direction of Mr. Mosley and Baboo Tarini Charan Ghosh. The second advertisement says that 12 moonshis will be entertained by Government. The candidates must possess the extraordinary gift of memory, proof of which was found in the moonshis employed by General Roberts at Cabul for the purpose of reproducing several important documents. The third invites applications for the post of envoy at Cabul rendered vacant by the death of Major Cavagnari. Liberal salary, good house accommodation, and titles of distinction will be provided. Applicants will be required to keep a sharp eye on the doings of the Amir and his court, and, if necessary, to lay down their lives to test the edge of the Afghan knife. If one, however, really met with such a tragic fate, Government would pay a pension to his widow or children, as the case might be. The fourth is a notice convening a meeting to be held at the Town Hall of the natives of Bengal for the purpose of expressing joy at the re-appointment of Maharajah Jatendra Mohan Tagore as an Additional Member of the Indian Legislative Council. Resolutions are to be moved at the meeting recognizing the important services rendered to the people by the Maharajah on the occasion of passing the Vernacular Press Act.

Government and the Municipalities.

12. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 8th March, complains that Government has indirectly begun to interfere with the expenditure of the Municipal Funds. From a long time past all money belonging to municipalities used to be kept in Government treasuries, free of charge. Lately, however, it was ruled that a certain percentage should be levied on all such sums, and the municipalities have regularly paid it. Not content with this, the Government of Bengal has gone further and appointed a traveling accountant to inspect the accounts of the different municipalities in the country. Now, there is not the slightest necessity for this office. The municipalities did not ask for an accountant, nor were their accounts in disorder. Some of the most pressing wants of the rate-payers cannot be supplied for lack of funds, and yet Government has forced an accountant upon them. In conclusion, the Editor asks whether Government will have any share in the sum which will be charged as the salary of the accountant. If it really means to have a share of municipal funds, instead of resorting to such devices, let it speak out its views; but if its action is disinterested, it behoves Government to relieve municipalities of this unnecessary charge.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 8th, 1881.

The Vernacular Press Act.

13. The *Bhārat Bandhu*, of the 8th March, condemns the attitude taken up by the *Pioneer* and certain other Anglo-Indian journals in the question of repealing the Vernacular Press Act. The Anglo-Indians, as a body, advocate this measure, and it is not therefore strange that their organs in the press should argue in favor of its continuance. What is to be feared is lest the Viceroy, who is new to India, should be taken in by their interested representations. It behoves Lord Ripon to act with independence and lend a patient ear to the complaints of the people. Let His Excellency seek to ascertain their feelings. There does not exist the slightest justification for the Press Act. Its apologists have not yet succeeded in adducing a single valid argument in favor of its enactment. They have all proceeded upon surmises and rumours which have had no foundation.

BHARAT BANDEHU,
March 8th, 1881.

Weak physique of Bengalis.

14. We make the following extract from an article in the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 8th March:—The notions and practices of native society are operating to make Bengalis an indolent people. The schools also teach them to be indolent

BHARAT MIHIR,
March 8th, 1881.

and weakminded. Add to this that the political condition of the people—the distrust with which they are regarded by the rulers—is operating in the same direction. All glory to Sir George Campbell, who alone, among the rulers, was able to perceive the wants of Bengalis. It was he who introduced gymnastic, walking, and riding exercises into schools, and contributed from public funds money for the improvement of the *physique* of Bengalis. Bengal was not fortunate in long enjoying the benefit of his rule. With the retirement of Sir George Campbell disappeared all those invigorating exercises and the other means of securing a true improvement of Bengalis. The Sub-Deputy Collectors are no longer seen anxious to acquire proficiency in riding, running, or walking. However timid and physically unfit for work he might be, the Fates would smile upon a person if only he had a good fund of flattery at his command. The boys in the schools are no longer seen practising gymnastics, because no one encourages such exercises. The teacher does not now bestow any care on this subject, because it has no connection with his daily bread.

BHARAT MIHIB,
March 8th, 1881.

15. The same paper trusts that the representations made by the British Indian Association on the state of the finances will receive the careful attention of the Viceroy. The Editor lays particular stress on the fact that under the system of decentralization of the finances, the local Government does not possess any real independence. It has to meet the demands of the Imperial Exchequer from provincial revenues. Owing to this circumstance, Sir Ashley Eden has not been able to construct important lines of railway in Bengal.

BHARAT MIHIB.

16. The same paper regrets to have to notice that Sir Ashley Eden is not favorably disposed towards Bengal. He has condemned native newspapers on the alleged ground of their indulging in personalities respecting public officers. This is not, however, the case. Native journals do not gratuitously attack any officer. Another proof of the fact that Bengal has incurred the displeasure of Sir Ashley Eden may be found in the absence of that energy and activity in undertaking measures of improvement which always characterized His Honor. Is Sir Ashley's supporting the action of his civilian brethren one which shows that he is pleased with the people? What has he done to foster trade and education in this province? What has he done in the matter of conferring the benefit of a railway communication upon the inhabitants of Mymensing?

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
March 12th, 1881.

17. The *Sulabha Samachar*, of the 12th March, directs the attention of Government to the necessity of exercising a sharp supervision on the proceedings of recruiting agents. They are commonly found to decoy ignorant native females by false offers of money and other advantages to coolie depôts, and to persuade them to appear and make their declarations before a Magistrate. It is only when told to embark for their place of destination that these females discover the fraud that has been practised upon them. The writer gives the particulars of a recent case.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI,
March 12th, 1881.

18. A correspondent of the *Purva Pratidhwani*, of the 12th March, dwells on the extortion and maltreatment to which pilgrims were subjected on the occasion of the late Sibratee festival at the shrine of Sitakunda. The police did not exert themselves in the least to prevent the outrages committed. The Assistant Magistrate, Mr. Pope, could not alone do anything, for as soon as his back was turned upon the temple the priests began to push and otherwise insult the pilgrims who were eager to obtain admission into it.

19. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 13th March, learns with gratification that the Government of India has at last resolved

The Vernacular Press Act.

upon repealing the Vernacular Press Act;

and remarks, with reference to the statement made in the papers, as to the desire of Government to insert a clause in the Penal Code for the punishment of seditious writing, that the people are confident that Lord Ripon will not by this means seek to keep alive the Press Act in another form. The Editor asks that full discussion should be invited on any Bill which Government might introduce in Council on this subject.

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 13th, 1881.

20. In a long letter a correspondent of the *Som Prakásh*, of the 14th

Assaults of natives by European sailors.

March, dwells on the brutal assaults frequently committed by rude European soldiers and

sailors on natives. The police, even the European constables, are powerless to protect the public against them. The attention of Government having been drawn to the increase in the number of the "rupture of spleen" cases, cases of assault committed on natives by middle class Europeans have of late decreased. But the former kind of cases shows an increase. The plea which is usually put forth on behalf of the accused in these cases is that of "accidental death." The offenders very frequently escape, or are let off with nominal punishment. This encourages them to persist in their evil ways.

SOM PRAKASH,
March 14th, 1881.

21. The same paper regrets to read that the Government of India have

Religious endowments.

not seen its way to initiate legislation for the purpose of securing a proper administration of

the funds of religious institutions. The motives which actuated Lord Ripon in disregarding the views of the local Government in this matter are indeed commendable, but the adoption of some measure for preventing the spoliation and waste of these funds has become extremely necessary. There can be no doubt that the country would have greatly benefited by the adoption in a modified form of the proposals made by the Lieutenant-Governor.

SOM PRAKASH.

22. A correspondent of the same paper notices a powerful combination

Zemindar's oppression in Meherpore.

of about 6,000 ryots of the Meherpore subdivision formed for the purpose of obtaining from Government redress of their grievances against their zemindar.

SOM PRAKASH.

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Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

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